

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

2005-2006 (Volume 93)

The Echo

2-17-2006

The Echo: February 17, 2006

Taylor University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pillars.taylor.edu/echo-2005-2006>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Taylor University, "The Echo: February 17, 2006" (2006). *2005-2006 (Volume 93)*. 17.
<https://pillars.taylor.edu/echo-2005-2006/17>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Echo at Pillars at Taylor University. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2005-2006 (Volume 93) by an authorized administrator of Pillars at Taylor University. For more information, please contact pillars@taylor.edu.

TU International
Taylor proposes
expansion to Ecuador

Of Mouse and Man
"Flowers for Algernon"
opens in Mitchell Theatre



Bands battle for top title



Photo by Alisse Goldsmith

Junior Justin Thomas and Senior Tony Tozser rock the auditorium as they perform "All These Things I've Done" by The Killers. The audience and judges voted Thomas, Tozser and three other Penthouse residents as first place for cover song during last night's Battle of the Bands.

By MEGAN BAIRD
CONTRIBUTOR

Battle: an open clash between two opposing groups or individuals.

Band: an organization of musicians who perform together.

Put these two definitions together, and you get one night of mind-blowing music.

SAC held the third annual Battle of the Bands Thursday night in Rediger Auditorium.

Ten bands fought for the top title, leaving the audience impressed by their talent. The competition was divided into bands singing cover songs and bands singing original songs, with cover songs opening the night.

"All These Things I've

Done" by The Killers started the show, with Penthouse residents Tony Tozser, Justin Thomas, Nate Pelz, Jonas Herum and Mark Boone getting the crowd on their feet.

Other cover songs included "Chick Magnet" by MXPX, "Suspension" by Mae, "The Distance" by Cake, which included a seven-minute guitar solo by Taylor alumnus Joe Arcano and "Hysteria"

by Muse.

"I've always had a dream of being in a band and tonight is the closest I think I'll ever be," said Brad Wood, lead singer for the MXPX cover band. "And I was glad that I was able to let people know that I am single in the chorus."

Between songs, emcees Ashley and Joel Donnell tested the audience's music triv-

ia knowledge. Sophomore Steve Conn raced to the stage to correctly answer the question "Who got their band name from a Greek mythological river that surrounds the underworld?" shouting "Styx!" into the microphone.

Joe Hamgeri's band began the original songs with "Only Way," a slow ballad that changed the night's pace.

Two one-man bands followed, both playing acoustic guitar and singing.

An impromptu Coldplay solo caught the audience by surprise, as an audience member rushed to the on-stage piano and pounded out the opening notes of an X&Y song. Laughing, he ran back to his seat before Anchor Close, made up of Luke Harty, Neil Kjeldsen, Luke Webb, and Zach Barr, started singing "Liar, Kisser, Truth-teller."

Lead singer Alex Frank, guitarist Joe Arcano, bass guitarist Nick Boyers, and drummer Nathan Sprunger closed the night with "Orient Express," ending the competition on a high note.

"This is the first time I've done anything with a band," Frank said. "It was good to see it come to full fruition."

The emcees collected the ballots, quickly tallying votes while the audience and bands waited in anticipation.

After several minutes, they announced the winners. "All These Things I've Done" by The Killers won first place for cover song from both the

judges' and the audience's votes. "Liar, Kisser, Truth-teller" by Anchor Close swept the original song category, also winning first place from both judges' and audience's votes.

Asked how they felt about their win, Anchor Close members huddled together and chose freshman Luke Harty as their spokesman.

"It's nice to be noticed," he joked.



Photo by Amy Wood

Anchor Close's Neil Kjeldsen sings lead vocals in "Liar, Kisser, Truth-teller." The band took first place in the original song category.

TDO hosts special olympics

By ROBIN SNYDER
CONTRIBUTOR

Taylor Disability Outreach (TDO) hosted Grant County's annual Special Olympics "Take it to the Hoop" basketball tournament on Saturday.

"Take it to the Hoop" is the largest tournament of its kind in Indiana, aside from the state tournament. Approximately 450 athletes from across the state of Indi-

ana participated in this day-long event. The number of teams jumped from 36 last year to 43 this year.

Nearly 200 Taylor students volunteered by refereeing or cheering in order to help make the day a success. According to Chris Horst, TDO co-director, student involvement nearly doubled from last year's tournament.

Although these numbers are significant, Horst believes the tournament's success can

be measured in more than just numbers.

"Our desire was for these Special Olympics to be able to come to Taylor and be appreciated and encouraged more than they ever have before," Horst said. "Our vision was to make this a day when their differences and uniqueness was celebrated and not ridiculed."

The tournament was double-elimination. It was broken into 10 brackets based on

age and ability.

First and second place winners received team trophies, and the rest of the athletes were awarded ribbons.

The teams practiced and competed, cheering each other on with chants and high fives.

Horst recounted one especially poignant moment during the tournament.

"It was a tie game and the team that was expected to win brought the ball down the court, and with time expiring, the guy hit a deep three-pointer to win 13-10. [It was] completely unexpected," Horst said. "To see the athletes rejoice like they had just won the gold medal at the winter Olympics was an experience that I won't ever forget."

Horst even called the event one of the best ministry experiences in which he has ever been involved.

"It was incredibly rewarding to spend an entire day with some of the most joyful people I have ever met," Horst said. "Just being able to love them and show them the love of Christ through participating with the Special Olympics was an amazing experience."



Photo by Amy Wood

A group of Special Olympians huddle together before continuing their pursuit of a trophy during Saturday's annual Grant County Special Olympics basketball tournament.

Row runs for office

By BETHANY HOWARD
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Campus safety director Mike Row announced his candidacy for the Office of Grant County Sheriff yesterday. After 23 years of law enforcement experience from his positions at Taylor, the Upland Police Department and the Hartford City Police Department, Row feels qualified for this position.

"I believe my professional and political record reveals that I possess the law enforcement experience, education, vision, leadership skills and financial expertise to take the Grant County Sheriff's Department to new heights of excellence," Row said.

Row joined the Taylor community 20 years ago as director of campus safety and later earned faculty status as an assistant professor. He has taught history, law enforcement and Foundations of Christian Thought.

Row will continue in his position at Taylor throughout his campaign.

"[The campaign] won't impact the [campus safety] department efficiency or effectiveness at all," Row said. "I'll campaign during off-duty hours."

If the county elects Row in November, he will resign from his position at Taylor.

Row's son, junior Sean Row, currently lives in Berg-wall Hall. Sean will support his father throughout the campaign.

"I'm really proud of him and I think he'll be great. He definitely has the credentials and the character to be the leader that this county needs," he said.

Row also has the support of his wife of 23 years, Shelly.

"Shelly and I have had much to think about in the past year," Row said. "To be sure we have spent many hours in prayerful discussion about our future."

Row received both his B.A. and M.S. from Ball State University and his Ph.D. from Regent and North Central Universities. He completed basic 10-week police officer training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Additional professional training included taking a physical security training course with the Department of Homeland Security along with many other specialized training programs.

Row volunteered at Taylor as a minority student mentor and served with Youth for Christ, Grant County Council and Grant County Economic Growth Council. Currently, he is the president of the Grant County Local Elected Officials Organization.

Phase two renovations slated for '07

BY MEGAN BAIRD
CONTRIBUTOR

As President Habecker launches his Vision 2016, plans continue updates on existing dorms include upcoming renovation of Olson and Wengatz halls.

Phase two will be completed for Wengatz in 2007 and for Olson in 2008. This second phase will replace the built-in furniture with stackable furniture and provide additional cosmetic work.

Future phases will also focus on making the buildings more handicap accessible. Additional rooms will be added to both dorms on the south side of the center wings and on the east and west ends of the buildings. Electrical wiring will be installed and new interior and exterior doors will be assembled.

"These additions [will] provide additional lounge space, possible classroom space, as well as some creatively designed suite and apartment style rooms for students," Wengatz hall director Steve Morley said.

Before phase two can begin, however, Olson will undergo phase one of its renovation project this summer. The women's dorm will receive the same updates Wengatz received last summer. These renovations consisted of remodeling the bathrooms, replacing plumbing and fixtures, and installing a fire sprinkler system throughout Wengatz.

"The bathroom and plumbing improvements will reduce maintenance and housekeeping problems, which will mean fewer clogged sinks, drains and toilets for all of us," Olson hall director Shelley Casbarro said.

The Olson laundry room will also gain two new washers and move to the end of the first floor on the east side of the building.

The funding for these projects comes from a repair reserve set aside for infrastructure and safety repairs, student comfort refurbishments, and ADA (handicap accessibility) renovations. The fund allows for \$800,000 a year in repairs.

"The university took on this project as part of their continual effort to improve and update our facilities," Morley said. "This project [demonstrates] the philosophy of the business office to complete the project with the best interest of the students in mind."

TU pursues Ecuador site

Centre for Global Engagement to take Taylor abroad

BY CHRISTIANNA LUY
NEWS EDITOR

This summer a new program in Ecuador this summer will begin the expansion of study abroad options at Taylor. The program will eventually be part of the Global Engagement Centre.

This new opportunity for global expansion began taking shape last January when biology professor Dr. John Moore took a team of pre-medical students to Quenca, Ecuador with the Lighthouse program. He returned and told Dr. Chris Bennett, associate vice president for academic affairs, and others that he felt God wanted to do something with Taylor University in Quenca.

Last month Bennett and a team of various university officials traveled to Ecuador to evaluate the location and possibilities for academic expansion.

Bennett explained how the new Ecuador program will engage Taylor's connections with a church in Quenca using a reciprocal method.

"The reciprocity is that in this global engagement vision that the president has, we would have students and faculty who go; there would be international students and faculty who come; and in both those directions the students and faculty would be engaged," Bennett said.

The proposed Spencer Centre for Global Engage-

ment will play a key role in rooting Taylor into international spheres.

Recently, the centre initiative received a \$1.5 million donation from alumnus Cindy Spencer, with another \$1.0 million donation promised for the coming year. President Habecker has also allocated \$1.5 million from the Eli Lily matching grant to aid in launching the centre.

Bennett said the centre's governing committee believes if \$5 million can be raised, the centre can be endowed.

"The program has, built into it, immersion. So when we go someplace we'll stay in homes," Bennett said. "Another hallmark of the

program is in the indigenous model. If we're going anyplace, there are subjects where our professors can go and teach, but it's better a lot of times to have a local national teaching it."

The partnering church in Ecuador will become the hub of this immersion and indigenous model.

Taylor could send students to study a common track, or could include the church and utilize approximately four universities in Ecuador that are anxious to welcome students. This way, Taylor could send a broad range of majors. Depending on the curriculum, the various universities are willing to offer classes at Taylor-specified times on re-

quested subjects.

"We're looking for 'low hanging fruit' we call it - big payback, little investment," Bennett said. "And we're looking for quick payback so we can test it out. At the end of the summer we'll probably be in a position to talk with church leadership about some kind of a collaboration model that we could work on."

In the coming years, Taylor plans to acquire 10 centres around the world in locations such as South Africa, Russia, Asia, Latin America, Ireland and Central Europe.

Although there are still areas at Taylor calling for further development, Bennett hopes faculty will catch the vision for studying abroad.

Fort Wayne to build new dorm

BY BETHANY HOWARD
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Fire damage to Taylor Fort Wayne's Shultz Hall last October displaced 35 residents.

Instead of repairing and renovating the 100-year-old building, the Board of Trustees approved plans to build a new residence hall. The 22,000-square-foot building will be on the south side of campus across from Calvin H. English Library.

Senior Hunter Tolbert was one of the students displaced by the fire.

"I give the administration kudos for constructing such a plan so quickly," Tolbert said. "In general, I've been impressed with their response to the entire tragedy."

However, Tolbert thinks the women on his campus should also benefit from the new building.

"Given the option, I would probably choose to make it a co-ed upperclassmen dorm, so that the women of TUFW could benefit as well," Tolbert said. "I know that many of my fellow 'refugees' are looking forward to the new facility."

President Habecker announced the university's goal to have the new residence hall open by Aug. 1. Shultz housed 35 males, but the new dorm should hold up to 52 students and residence life staff.

Taylor has already received

50 percent of the money needed for the demolition of Shultz and construction of the new hall. The total cost will not exceed \$2.4 million with \$2 million coming from insurance proceeds and \$.4 from donations.

Building plans include changes in both style and technology from the old residence hall. The dorm will have an apartment-like feel. Information Technology will equip common living areas and students' rooms with cable and wireless internet access.

The university will not provide telephones in the rooms but will only provide telephone ports.

"We have found students like to bring their own phones and/or answering machines, so we will not be supplying university-owned phones for the student rooms," director of technology services T.R. Knight said.

However, the university will install two emergency phones outside the main doors of the hall. The lounge, front desk and hall director's apartment will also have university-owned phones.

Although the Board of Trustees resolved to build the new residence hall, plans still need approval from Fort Wayne's Board of Zoning Appeals. Many details could still change before construction is complete.



Photo by Amy Wood

Jenbe Ensemble drums up emotion

Three Rivers Jenbe Ensemble performed in Rediger Auditorium Wed. night. AHANA and TBM brought the group to Taylor to explore the Malinke people of West Africa through music and dance. The ensemble strives to strengthen families and young people's self-esteem through West African music and dance. Three Rivers Jenbé Ensemble has a vision for children living in Fort Wayne's southeast quadrant.

Relay for Life confronts cancer

BY KRISTINA SATERN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Taylor's Relay for Life cabinet recently announced the theme for this year's event: A Night at the Movies. Students will incorporate their teams' favorite movie into their campsite through decorations.

The annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society will take place March 3 through 4 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Teams of students and local residents will camp out at the KSAC.

Each team will gain sponsorship for the relay and have a representative walking on the track at all times during the event.

This year's relay will be the first full Relay for Life at Taylor.

"Last year [a student] put together a relay in about two months with a small group of students," Event chairman Katie Savoie said. "This year, we have been planning for Relay since September and have a full cabinet. It will also be a full, overnight relay."

The cabinet has planned several free activities and amusements, including a DJ, karaoke, Dance Dance Revolution, limbo, food fear factor, a euchre tournament and other events that SAC is helping coordinate. There will be free food (pizza, Subway sandwiches and coffee) throughout the event. Also, Sen. David Ford (R-Ind.) will speak at the opening ceremony.

The cabinet hopes more teams will participate. Currently, 12 teams have signed

up, consisting of about 8-10 members each.

"This is comparable to how many teams we had last year," Savoie said. "Many teams are still accepting members and we highly encourage [people] to join them. Our goal is to have at least one person from every wing, floor, apartment or house come to the event."

The Relay for Life allows the community to grieve for those lost to cancer, celebrate the lives of survivors and encourage current cancer pa-

tients. Cancer survivors are welcome to come for at least the first lap of the relay to be honored.

"It's all about raising awareness and money for cancer research, advocacy and care," Savoie said.

Taylor's financial goal for this year's relay, set by the American Cancer Society based on last year's numbers, is \$15,000. Donations can be made at <http://www.acsevents.org/relay/in/taylor>.

"Cancer is something that affects almost every[one],

and this is our chance to say that we know and are here supporting the search for a cure," Savoie said. "We've done a lot with AIDS. Here is another topic that deserves attention. With our event, we can turn to the world and say that more needs to be done both in research and in care."

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.acsevents.org/relay/in/taylor> or contact Katie Savoie at turrelay4life@yahoo.com.

TU team plans research in Russia

By Amy Wood
CONTRIBUTOR

Junior Jessica Degenhardt went to Russia last year on a Taylor spring break trip and observed the ministry of The Boaz Project inc. There, she found she could do more for the orphans than serve for just that week.

Now Jessica, along with members of the sociology department and other Taylor students, plan to return to Russia to collect data that will help them determine the effectiveness of The Boaz Project's ministry to orphans.

The Boaz Project inc. is a non-profit mission organization that seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of Russian orphans. It was founded by Jim and April Jurgensen ('91).

The Jurgensens work in 15 orphanages throughout Russia, providing monthly humanitarian aid based on the specific needs of each orphanage. Their ministry includes providing Christmas and birthday presents, weekly Bible discovery classes, job training, tutoring, child care and adoption facilitation.

Degenhardt has always had a fascination with Russia and its people. She attended a seminar offered during last year's World Opportunities Week on the inner-workings of the Russian orphanage system.

Degenhardt knew the Lord was finally leading her to Russia. April Jurgensen told

her about the spring break trip she and her husband led every year, so Degenhardt applied and went.

Since her return, Degenhardt has kept in close contact with the Jurgensens. The Boaz Project inc. recently decided to strengthen the ministry within the orphanages it is already working in before expanding and adding additional orphanages.

The administration wanted a way to measure the effectiveness of their programs to see what they were doing well and what needed improvement.

This fall, Degenhardt asked if she could use her senior thesis for sociology as a starting point for their measurements.

Dr. Steven Bird saw this could be something truly beneficial to The Boaz Project inc. But, it would extend beyond the realm of a senior thesis. He offered to help her do a thorough research project.

Now they are creating a research team that will go to Russia May 20 through June 4 in order to collect the data. The research project is now being headed up by Dr. Bird.

Fourteen Taylor students will go to Russia to lead a vacation bible school during spring break. Degenhardt will travel with them to gather some preliminary data.

Senior Jessi Decker has been involved with Boaz for over two years and is the

student leader of the team. This will mark her third trip to Russia. Last summer, she wrote the curriculum that will be used for all of the programs this year.

When Decker graduates in May, she plans to move to Indianapolis, where The Boaz Project Inc. is based, to continue to work with Boaz.

Degenhardt encourages other Taylor students to get involved in their own projects.

"I would say to pay attention to the interests you have that don't seem to have a purpose, and be open to the ways in which God will use that interest for His glory," Degenhardt said. "I never thought I would be working in orphanages in Russia, but now it is how I look at the rest of my life."

Students can apply for the spring break trip to Russia in the fall. Boaz also takes three other trips to Russia each year. Information on these trips can be found at their website www.boazproject.org.

"Prayer is the most obvious way to get involved, and this year Boaz has provided prayer magnets for specific orphanages," Degenhardt said.

Interested students can contact Degenhardt or Decker for a magnet and more specific ways in which they can pray.



Photo courtesy of boazproject.org

The Boaz Project strives to have a positive lasting impact on the spiritual and physical condition of orphans in Russia by providing Biblical education, medical, personal, and educational supplies and where possible permanent Christian homes, according to boazproject.org

The Echo

Taylor University

Kristina Satern
Editor-in-Chief

Christianna Luy
News Editor

Joe Ringenberg
Opinions Editor

Bethany Howard
Associate News Editor

Amy Wood
Photographer

Jen Moreland
Advertising Manager

Ryan Poe
Distribution Manager

Crystal Pollock
Associate Editor

Nate Baggett
Features Editor

Trevor Kight
Sports Editor

Jared Bane
A&E Editor

Alisse Goldsmith
Photography Editor

DJ Horton
Photographer

Angela Moore
Copy Editor

Donna Downs
Faculty Adviser

The mission of *The Echo* is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University's campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. *The Echo* also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

The Echo has been published weekly since 1915, except for January term, exam week and school holidays and is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Indiana Collegiate Press Association.

The Echo is printed by the *Marion Chronicle-Tribune* in Marion, Ind. Offices are located in the Rupp Communication Arts Building.

All letters, questions or comments may be addressed to:

The Echo
236 W. Reade Ave.
Upland, IN 46989-1001
(765) 998-5359
echo@tayloru.edu



Looking for a mission trip?
Search 1000 mission trips
Offered by 60 organizations
From one week to three years
For individuals, couples or groups
Current, Detailed, Mission Trips.

www.ShortTermMissions.com

Students save lives

Horton, Lee share stories as EMTs

By Nate Baggett
FEATURES EDITOR

It is hard to listen to what is going on in Intro to International Ministry for one simple reason.

The fire alarm is going off. I don't want to go outside, but since we are in Nussbaum, I should. Something in the chemistry lab might have blown up.

As I tap my foot outside, I cannot figure out why I have been here for 15 minutes. Sirens blare. I begin to think this might be serious. Several men rush up the stairs, but one looks strangely familiar. Why is sophomore Joe Lee running into the science building dressed in fire gear?

Lee is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and volunteer firefighter for Grant County. This Upland native took a certification class at Eastbrook High School. After completing 124 classroom hours, Lee passed a written test. The final component to Lee's certification was a practical exam in which he demonstrated his skills in a practical situation.

Lee has seen some frightening things while serving as an EMT. Although Lee cannot talk about the specifics of his work, he did mention that he was able to treat

an individual who had a seizure in the bookstore. Lee was thankful for the opportunity to help.

"It's nice to know you can provide some level of help when people need it," Lee said.

Lee hopes to keep his certification after he graduates from Taylor.

Lee is not the only EMT on campus. His roommate DJ Horton is also an EMT.

Horton has been certified since 2000. At 16, Horton decided to volunteer. 175 classroom hours later, Horton is certified in both his home state of Pennsylvania and in Indiana.

Horton has witnessed a variety of situations from death to birth. He has given CPR. He also aided victims with severed fingers from an accident with a garbage disposal.

Horton recalled another story where he was called to aid a victim of heat induced asthma. An awkward situation then ensued when he arrived and the victim thought her clothes where the cause of her body overheating.

However, not all of his stories are humors, Horton recalled losing a 5-year-old boy on call. Horton did all he could, including being ready for such a situation.

"One of the things I take pride in is being prepared

for any situation," Horton said.

Horton says this is easier than most people think.

"The only way things get accomplished is if people remain calm. It's so cliché, but if you flip out nothing happens," Horton said. "In the

worst situations, you go into auto-pilot. You don't think of what's going on. The emotional side is out of the way and you do what you are trained to do."

JOIN

THE PEACE CORPS.

come to an info meeting:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 P.M.

STUDENT UNION,

PRO-SHOP

Casa Patricia Apartments

Now Renting For Fall Semester!

* One or Two bedroom apartments

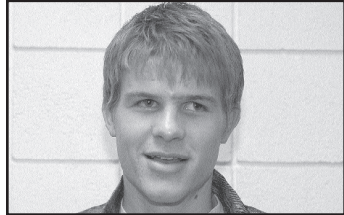
* On-site Laundry

* Central Air

* Range & Refrigerator furnished

Contact: Corrie Church at 998-0530

God bless America



JOE RINGENBERG
OPINIONS EDITOR

America is under attack. This time, however, it's not our usual enemies. Russia isn't good at anything, Fidel Castro is marooned on a tiny island in the Caribbean, and the militant Islamic fundamentalists are wasting all their angst drawing offensive caricatures of Jesus Christ.

Is it the liberals, you ask? Of course it's the liberals! Who else? Today it's not the war on marriage, the war on Christmas, or the war on homophobia. No, it's a war on American culture and to be honest, the conservatives are probably as guilty as the liberals – maybe even more so.

Everywhere I turn, it seems I hear someone criticizing American culture. You don't have to look far to find someone willing to call Americans ignorant, oversexed and overweight. You don't have to search far and wide to find someone willing to call America a culture of no-culture, a melting pot without identity, unity or history.

We might not have rich cultural traditions and landmarks that reach back to the Middle Ages, but that doesn't mean we don't have culture. Where there's a culture, there's a people, and where there's a people, there's a people who need to embrace their national identity and rich cultural traditions, in whatever form they take.

Let us now affirm under-appreciated icons of American culture.

God bless America, land of the free and the brave. God bless America, land of 24-hour convenience stores, 59-cent Polar Pops, and drinkable tap water. God bless America, land of the Super Bowl, the World Series, and the World Championship of Poker. Land of the soap-opera stars, land of the computer programmers, land of the gay cowboys. Land of 4-H fairs with cut-off denim shorts and fried Twinkies. God bless America, land of opportunity and equality, one nation under Oprah, under Bill Gates, under Brad Pitt.

We are a country that knows what we want and has 401k plans to pay for it even after we pack up our

Cadillacs and move to Florida. We want mini-malls with our favorite stores. We want the same distressed jeans and pithy t-shirts selling in every major suburb. We want to travel across borders without bribes; we want peaceful elections; we want to order Chicken McNuggets anywhere in the country and know exactly what we're going to get. We want free public bathrooms, free refills, free libraries, free state parks and free wireless Internet access at Panera.

I know you've heard this before. There's always someone out there complaining about our culture, listing everything that makes America different and trying to pass it off as a criticism of America.

I say we need to salute these differences that make our country special. The Spanish have tango? Well we have the moonwalk and swing dancing. The Irish invented bagpipes and drinking songs? We invented the electric guitar and gangsta rap. The Israelis have Yiddish? We've got AOL shorthand and southern drawl.

As I write this, I'm sure there's someone out there who, after considering this list, will scowl and ask, "What is that to boast about? Our fried-Twinkie eating habits are disgusting. A culture that defines itself by instant-gratification single-serving super-sized super-sexed self-help excess is no culture to be proud of."

Here I disagree. We are a culture of free choice, of options and opportunities. The culture that spawns a Wal-Mart next to a Target next to a K-Mart is the same culture that makes way for a mosque next to a church next to a synagogue. The same culture that gives you five fast food restaurants at every interstate exit gives you five hundred non-profit organizations aimed at ending AIDS, starvation, and just about any other problem you can find in the rest of the world. The same culture that gives you 300-channel satellite TV gives you as many candidates, political parties, or interest groups to vote for and support.

Most importantly, you're under no obligation to agree with me. We can whine all we want (and I do), but this vast empire of shopping malls, liquor stores and golf courses is our home. You might not like it, but it's part of who we are.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Ricke's 77 theses

By JOE RICKE

One gets what one expects from Joe Ringenberg's Echo pieces. If one were to estimate what the probable writing product would be of the spoiled rich Christian offspring of spoiled rich Christian American parents, raised on a steady diet of The Simpsons and Wes Anderson, thinking that football is something played with a soccer ball because his soccer mom protectively took him to his suburban soccer matches every Saturday morning rather than letting him get down and dirty with the boys from the hood, you would expect it to be just what we get on a weekly basis from Joe. Irony, anti-football, and lots of whining.

[Ed.: Clearly Dr. Ricke has me confused with the other Joe Ringenberg. Anyway, soccer matches were always on Sundays.]

Katie Garber, on the other hand, poses problems for one who would predict. Like most people who have been raised by wolves¹ and who are in direct communication with little green "persons", Katie's behavior and, more significantly, her "thinking" might be called, and for once we can be assured that the term is being used properly since it is being invoked by an English professor, rather "random." An ultra-conservative feminist evangelical pro-choicer? Perhaps. Listening to little green persons? A simpler explanation.

Be that as it may, or not, I venture forth to quibble with Mz. Garber's recent salvo, "Salvation through Abortion." If she means what she appears to be saying, I quibble. If she is satirizing certain self-contradictions in some interpretations of scripture and Christianity, which I think she ultimately intends to do, then I'm more elaborating her (intentionally) obscure point. Whichever, I think we would all agree, including Katie unless the voices are particularly loud today, that when she says, "I will explain"--and thank God for journalism classes where people learn to write such three word paragraphs, she either doesn't really mean it or she simply lost the will to follow through on her rhetorical promise.

In the spirit of journalistic pithiness, and also because I'm too tired to think in long paragraphs, I offer seventy-seven reasons for rejecting the statement "Thank God for Abortion."

1. There is no scriptural guarantee that the fate of unborn fetuses is eternal bliss in heaven. It may be so, but we cannot be as certain of that as of something like, "Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate." In other words, I wouldn't trust my life to such a "commonly accepted theol-

ogy" (if indeed Katie accurately describes it).

2. Ethical decisions should not be based on an "eternal viewpoint," if by that we mean references to heaven and hell. There would have been no ethics in the Old Testament, if that were the case, since there is little concept of heaven or hell in the O. T. Or eternal life, for that matter.

3. Human beings were not made for heaven and hell. They were made for earth. They were made for being born, playing football, experiencing sexual pleasure, praying, playing, dancing, liturgical (non-contemporary) worship, conceiving



The Saint befriends the wolf.

children, feasting, jumping up and down in one place (I refer to 80s punk humans), protecting unborn children, thinking about the meaning of the universe, giving names to animals, birthing children, developing their talents and abilities, raising children, and especially farming. This is what is known as "the doctrine of Creation." Whether contemporary Manichean/Christians believe this or not has nothing to do with its truthfulness.

4. If God created human beings so they could live in bodies on earth, we should not presume that we know better by sending them off to some "spiritual" state of existence. If it happens, it happens. When it happens, it happens. In fact, in most cases we should try to prolong earthly, bodily existence, since it is the good gift of God.

5. Although St. Paul said a few things about how it might be nice to die to go to heaven rather than keep putting up with those pesky Corinthians (and his thorn in the flesh, possibly an old football injury), he didn't follow through on this advice by immediately executing new converts or newborn children of the cities of Asia Minor.

6. If a fetus is a human being, killing of a fetus is a sin against the clear command of God.²

7. If a fetus is not yet a human being, Katie's argument

would not hold, since these non-human beings are not going to "find" that narrow road to eternal life in happy heaven. So, if there were any reason to abort not-yet-human fetuses, getting a quick trip to heaven would not be one of them.

8. If a fetus may or may not be a human being, in other words if we are necessarily uncertain as to its status, we would be depriving it of the opportunity to fulfill its biological potential and theological purpose, for the equally fuzzy chance that it will be transferred to some eternally happy spiritual status.

9. Some might say that

the "it"--that is, the possibly not-yet human fetus, cannot be victimized or deprived of its rights ("its opportunity to fulfill its biological potential and theological purpose") if in fact it isn't human yet. In other words, if it's not a human being, then it has no rights, therefore it is not protected by scriptural, moral, or criminal law. You dullard, I retort. The point is that IT MIGHT BE.

10. Further, even if that "might be" leans towards "probably isn't" (yet a human being), who told you (imaginary dullard from question #9) that non-human beings or things have no rights??? Animals have rights. The earth has certain rights. Satan has certain rights. Even hip-hop "singers" have some limited rights. At least the right to the opportunity to grow up into human beings and study classical piano. All things being equal, potential human life (if that's what a fetus is or at least what some fetuses are) has the right to develop into human life. In fact (and I realize that I follow the stink wherever it leads), one could make a better case for the execution of certain Grammy winning "singers" than for the wholesale killing of unborn infants (not from "heavenly" concerns, but for the good of human societies everywhere).

11. "Whatever you do to the least of these my breth-

ren, you do unto me." Jesus chose to come to earth, to live on earth, to die as a result of specific choices he made. Imagine one of Katie's zealots arguing with him at the last judgment that she (or he) should be welcomed into the kingdom of right-handed sheep because when she saw Him fetal, she thought it best to short-circuit the entire incarnational thing.

77. "Ye are [and ought to be] the salt of the earth." Why? "So that people may see your good deeds, and glorify my Father who is in heaven." The people of God have responsibilities to general human society. That definitely seems to include encouraging them and even persuading them to know, love, and obey God. But they also have wider responsibilities to benefit human life on earth (and glorify God by doing so), not just look for ways to escape the earth. It taketh not a rocket (or genetic) scientist, or even a Wife of Bath (who said that if everyone followed the medieval church's advice and lived celibate lives, pretty soon there wouldn't be a church), to see that if everyone followed Katie's calculation, pretty soon there wouldn't be a church, a society, or human life. We can safely assume, I argue, that any moral scenario which, if adopted, necessarily concludes with a scene of very old, dying people grasping rusty-once bloody instruments of abortion, surrounded by empty, decaying schools, churches, homes, gardens, and even football stadiums, their wheezing, guilty voices chanting "a million more in heaven, A Million More in Heaven, A MILLION MORE IN HEAVEN!!", probably needs some fine-tuning. Yet another utopian project gone awry. And I like to see myself as the catcher of the awry.³

1 About the wolves. The name Garber is actually from the Italian Garbio, which turns out to be mongrel form of the Italian place name, Gubbio (famous for its wolves). For the full story of the famous wolf of Gubbio (ancestor of the Garbers), including his encounter with none other than St. Francis of Assisi, you can visit the following website: <http://www.shrinesf.org/francis05.htm>

2 I realize that scripture qualifies this commandment both by precept and example. Usually, though, "being conceived" is not considered adequate rationale for re-interpreting the commandment to read "Thou Shalt Kill."

3 I take this issue seriously, and I hope that most will see that despite the gymnastics. Second, I appreciate satire as a way of getting certain things said. But I also value Christian community, so I did submit a version of this to Joe and Katie ahead of time.

Join the speed date scramble

By EMILY CLINE

So I was sitting in my room Tuesday night, watching Gilmore Girls and sipping an Ivanhoe's mint-oreo milkshake, realizing how lonely the world truly is, when all of a sudden I got a bright idea. Now, I know that I'm not the only kid on campus who cried in their cereal this morning because no one loves them. That's why I have a brilliant plan for all of us lonely hearts who, by the by, have time to read this ar-

ticle because we aren't married yet. We need to band together and find the only real answer to our predicament: speed dating. Sure, it sounds hokey, but once you are in a room full of bright, intelligent, quality Taylor students chomping at the bit to get married, you might change your mind.

Now some of you are thinking, "Speed dating? Gee whiz, what's that? Just think of it as an assembly line, where all the girls are the workers, and all

the guys are the product going by on the conveyer belt: a great environment for dating. Got the picture? Good. On to the date.

In the first minute, you could share your deep love for Blue Like Jazz, Wild at Heart/Captivating, and of course anything C.S. Lewis. Following that, how about an analysis of all the reasons that the DC stopped doing the every-other-Friday chicken wrap thing? If the conversation really gets go-

ing, you might even make it to a thirty second DTR. Now that you've hit it off, you can exchange extensions, sit in your choice of dorm lounges, go for a romantic walk around the loop, or grab a bite at a fancy restaurant, say, Handy Andy's.

We all know what we are really thinking--no one wants to grow up to be a bachelor or that old maid with forty cats. Why be ashamed? And if this idea doesn't pan out, there's always eHarmony.

The Model Taylor Student *by Alex Frank*

Of course you may enter! According to the holy scriptures, anyone with Jesus in his heart will see Paradise!

The loophole was quickly closed, but not before thousands were mistakenly granted eternal life.

Pollard loses 'Voices'

BY JARED BANE
A&E EDITOR

For fans of the trailblazing modern rock band Guided by Voices, New Year's Eve 2004 marked the end of an era. Guided by Voices was not so much a band as a pseudonym for Robert Pollard and a revolving cast of musicians. Pollard, nevertheless, officially ended the band's 21-year-career after a marathon four-hour show at Chicago's Metro rock club.

Pollard, however, did not retire from songwriting or recording. He spent 2005 writing and recording songs for his first post-Guided by Voices album. Prolific to a fault, he uncharacteristically refrained from releasing any extra material on his own record label, Fading Captain, saving his material for a planned solo record. The result is "From a Compound Eye," a sprawling anti-retirement treatise.

"From a Compound Eye" touches on all of Pollard's favorite styles. There is rickety lo-fi acoustic pop next to strutting arena rock, and gentle 70s style balladry next to dark keyboard-heavy progressive rock.

"I'm a Widow" is reminiscent of The Who, The Kinks and other British Invasion bands. As a teenager, Pollard spent all of his allowances absorbing the new sounds from across the Atlantic as well as American psychedelic rock.

Musically and lyrically, Pollard's greatest strength is combining a number of favorite themes and influences to form a style distinctly his own. His Midwestern sensibility is apparent in his frequent use of religious themes and his conflicted relationship with his hometown, Dayton, Ohio.

Over the course of 16 albums, some self-released and heard by virtually no one and some relentlessly promoted and pushed to mainstream radio, Pollard discovered that there was a glass ceiling for Guided by Voices.

The band's relatively large and obsessive cult following could be counted on to religiously buy every piece of recorded material released. Expanding the group's appeal to a broader audience proved more difficult.

The band's history could fill volumes. Interested fans should read Jim Greer's "Guided by Voices: A Brief History" for an engaging and personal account of the band's ups and downs. He chronicles the band's unlikely rise to buzz-band status on the strength of 1994's "Bee Thousand," which is widely considered one of the best records of the decade. The book begins, ironically, with a firsthand account of Guided by Voices' final concert.

"From a Compound Eye's" 26 songs and daunting 70-minute length is unlikely to inspire many uninitiated listeners to explore Pollard's career.

Perhaps this was simply an exorcism of unused material. Pollard has proven he can release an album every bit as strange and wonderful as his previous work. Hopefully the future holds a more focused version of his vision.

Man plays God in 'Flowers'

BY JARED BANE
A&E EDITOR

What human being could resist the opportunity to improve on some deficiency they perceive in themselves? "Flowers for Algernon" suggests the universality of that desire and reveals the consequences such a change could have.

Directed by Tracy Manning and based on the novel of the same name by Daniel Keyes, "Flowers for Algernon" tells the story of a mildly retarded man who volunteers for an operation that will improve his mental capacity.

Junior Jason Burkey plays Charlie Gordon, the man who undergoes the experimental procedure. He is recommended for the program and protected by his teacher, Alice Kinnian, played by senior Audra Stratton.

Dr. Strauss, played by senior Aaron Leu, and Professor Nemur, played by junior David Phillips, assure Charlie and Ms. Kinnian the operation is safe and has worked wonders on mice, particularly one mouse named Algernon.

Charlie and Algernon meet for the first time before Charlie has his operation. Algernon runs a maze while Charlie completes the same maze pattern on paper. The surgically-enhanced mouse wins its race with Charlie, who is frustrated by his defeat and all the more motivated to begin his procedure.

Burkey is convincing and



Photo by Alisse Goldsmith

Charlie (Jason Burkey), is helped out of bed after his operation by Burt (Andrew Dawdy), Dr. Strauss (Aaron Leu) and a nurse (Mark Burtress) in "Flowers for Algernon."

funny in these opening scenes. Cliff Robertson won an Oscar in 1968 for portraying the same character in a performance that, in retrospect, appears rather insulting to mentally handicapped people. Burkey does a fine job of ensuring that the audience is touched by Charlie's sweet nature and laughs with him, not at him.

Leu and Phillips develop their characters well through an emerging rivalry between the two professionals. The sympathetic humanist, Dr. Strauss, has Charlie's best interests in mind and hopes this surgery's success will benefit other mentally challenged people. Professor Nemur, on the other hand,

is guarded and defensive. His primary concern is the acclaim Charlie will bring him if the operation succeeds.

Charlie does become smarter, as he so desperately wished. At the bakery where he works as a delivery man, he learns to do jobs above and beyond his former capabilities simply by watching his co-workers. Ms. Kinnian gives him novels and other books to satisfy his exploding capacity for knowledge.

Ms. Kinnian, who Charlie now calls by her first name, Alice, sees the day approaching when she has nothing left to teach Charlie. At the bakery, Charlie begins to suspect his former friends resent his

new intelligence. He realizes he was often the object of their jokes before.

These scenes are crucial because they signal the transition between Charlie's good-natured slow-wittedness and his superior intelligence, which comes at the expense of trust in his fellow man.

Burkey portrays this middle-ground effectively and Stratton accurately shows Alice's confusion at the changes happening to Charlie and the changing nature of her relationship with him.

In the middle of the stage, a large video screen shows scenes that take place off-stage, such as Charlie's test-

ing sessions with Dr. Strauss' assistant, Burt (sophomore Andrew Dawdy). The screen is also used to show scenes from Charlie's childhood in silhouette. As Charlie becomes more intelligent, he is able to recall more of the traumatic childhood that makes it so difficult for him to transition from his old life to a new one, despite his astonishing intellect.

As new opportunities arise for him, he is haunted by his old self. He sees visions of his younger self (freshman Blake Stratton). Charlie questions the fairness of taking the old Charlie's life away from him and the intentions of Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur.

As the science-fiction aspects of the story were a small stretch of the imagination even at the time of its release, one might expect the material to have aged past the point of relevance. With new advances in gene therapy and the possibility of human cloning on the horizon, however, one might argue that "Flowers for Algernon" is more relevant than ever.

Scientific relevance aside, the story will resonate with anyone who has ever felt the pressure of measuring up to the person they once thought they wanted to be.

"Flowers for Algernon" starts tonight and plays February 18, 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. in Mitchell Theatre. Tickets are available for \$6 at the theatre office.

Palestinian 'Paradise'

BY AARON HARRISON
CONTRIBUTOR

Palestine's official selection for the Oscars, "Paradise Now," is sure to be controversial. The movie, directed by Hany Abu-Assad, tells the story of two suicide bombers.

Set in the west bank city of Nablus, the story centers around two childhood friends. As adults, a terrorist group calls upon the two to retaliate against Israel with a suicide bomb attack. Their relationship is stretched to the breaking point as true motivations become apparent and, in some cases,

up a deeper hatred for the history of violence in the region.

The main character, Said (Kais Nashef), seems completely normal. He has a family, a crush on a girl, a job fixing cars and a penchant for smoking and listening to music. As his story unfolds, he reveals his personal history of dignity denied. Said finally makes the life-changing choice to carry out his assigned mission.

A striking feature of the film is its absence of a soundtrack, which lends to a documentary feel. The acting is authentic, convincing and



Photo courtesy of Rottentomatoes.com

Said (Kais Nashef) finds it difficult to live with his decision to kill and be killed for his beliefs in "Paradise Now."

resolve disappears.

Assigning a political perspective to this film is easy in that it was made in Palestine, but the human element in the film is more complex. It hinges on the issue of using violence to gain political freedom.

"Paradise Now" looks behind the turbans and pseudo-religious sermonizing of most terrorist communications into the everyday lives of people involved.

Interestingly, religion was never brought up as a motivation for violence. Religious language simply wrapped

full of pathos.

As a Christian, and an American (who has historically supported Israel), what am I to make of this film? I have my own ideas about politics, but as a Christian charged with a ministry of reconciliation, I feel I must hear both sides.

"Paradise Now" is by no means propaganda. It is simply the story of two men's lives and their motivation for choosing to employ violence in their struggle. Some will find this story uncomfortable or too political. I found it necessary.

Meloy's talent lost in Tarkio

BY JARED BANE
A&E EDITOR

2005 was a banner year for singer/songwriter Colin Meloy. His band, the Decemberists, released a universally-acclaimed album, wowed audiences with its interactively theatrical live show and signed a deal with Capitol Records. Meloy even found time to record several EPs under his own name.

With the Decemberists' departure from Olympia, Washington's Kill Rock Stars label, it makes sense to capitalize on the current interest in all things Meloy-related.

In that spirit, Kill Rock Stars and Meloy have gathered every piece of recorded material by Meloy's first band, Tarkio, and released it as the two-disk set "Omnibus." Formed in Missoula, Mont. in 1996, the band is named after a nearby ghost town.

Musically, the band is nothing special. Every song is based around simple, predictable acoustic guitar strumming adorned with banjo and violin.

Tarkio was competent and moderately successful with its local audience. What it lacked, however, was an elevating originality to make the music appeal to people outside its University of Montana fan base.

Unsurprisingly, what distinguishes Tarkio is Meloy's voice. His powerful and articulate holler often threatens to overwhelm the meat-and-potatoes college rock arrangements. These songs reveal a talent too big to be contained by Tarkio's

status as a local favorite.

As a lyricist, Meloy was not yet the post-graduate smart-aleck he is today, throwing out references to barrow boys, chimney sweeps and other Dickensian characters in dense, historically-themed narratives.

Meloy's songs here are vague nonspecific complaints against indifferent lovers, tributes to the band's Western roots and the occasional foray into literary allusion, such as the Poe-inspired "Annabelle Leigh."

Spanning two disks and two hours, "Omnibus" gives the listener more pre-Decemberists Meloy than they could possibly want. The limited instrumental palette becomes grating around the fifth or sixth song.

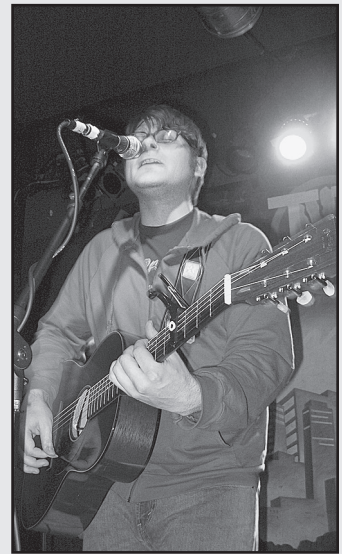


Photo courtesy of Sushiesque.com

Before forming up-and-coming rock band The Decemberists, Colin Meloy fronted the group Tarkio.

Making a mistake common to many young bands with enthusiastic local audiences, most of Tarkio's songs go on for several more

minutes than they should.

To be fair, the Decemberists are known to include one or two seven-to-nine minute tracks per album, too. Tarkio lacks the flamboyant theatricality that turns the Decemberists' longer songs into circus-like events rather than windy bores.

Gentle folk-pop has its place, however. There is much to appreciate in the loose jangle of songs like, "Devil's Elbow," "Caroline Avenue" and the scraggly self-effacing charm of "Am I Not Right?"

In fact, Tarkio's best songs are the rough-hewn earlier recordings consisting of Meloy accompanied by a few vocal harmonies and workmanlike guitar leads. Tarkio's later songs take on a bland professionalism that tended to conceal Meloy's songwriting peculiarities.

"Mess of Me" shows how Tarkio is better when Meloy is left alone. Even in some of the Decemberists' recordings, the band knows when to step aside and allow Meloy's songs to without the usual sonic clutter.

Meloy's best songs should be played unaccompanied and Tarkio's contributions to the others add nothing. One wonders why he needed the band behind him. Meloy must have wondered the same thing.

Fans of the Decemberists will appreciate this look into Meloy's development as an artist. Several of these songs would fit well on mix CDs next to the Shins. "Omnibus," however, is ultimately a mediocre offering with nothing to recommend it beyond its lead player's further endeavors.

Lady Trojans start to heat up

TU rides a 3-game winning streak headed into Saturday's game at St. Francis



Photo by Alisse Goldsmith

Freshman guard Stacie Myers drives between two Spring Arbor defenders during the Trojans' 80-71 victory on Wednesday. Myers led the Trojans with 18 points, including the last eight points of the first half. Taylor (17-12, 9-6) is now in sole possession of fourth place in the MCC. If the Trojans win Saturday, they lock up the #4 seed in conference, which guarantees them a first-round home game. Taylor can also finish fourth if Marian defeats Bethel this weekend. The Trojans play Saturday at 1 p.m. against #7 St. Francis.

By ROB KOLUCH
& TREVOR KIGHT

As the Lady Trojans headed to Goshen to take on the Maple Leafs, they found themselves without the aid of leading scorer Katie Madden. The Trojan sophomore was unavailable to play due to week-long back spasms.

However, the Lady Trojans rose to the occasion, overcoming poor shooting in the first half and a five-point halftime deficit, to defeat Goshen 64-59.

Madden was back in the starting lineup as the Trojans faced Spring Arbor on Wednesday. It was senior night at Don Odle, and the

Trojan faithful were out in large numbers to support the team's only graduating member, Mallory Hawkins. The gymnasium was decorated in purple and gold including a large 'H'-shaped archway made with balloons.

The Trojans recovered from any previous shooting problems, hitting an impressive 64 percent from the floor in route to an 80-71 victory over the Cougars.

With the two wins, Taylor improved to an overall record of 17-12 and a conference record of 9-6. The Trojans are on a 3-game winning streak heading into St. Francis this Saturday, and have sole possession of

fourth place in the Mid-Central College Conference.

"Katie Madden provides an incredible presence for our team and really boosts the team's confidence when she is on the floor," head coach Tena Krause said. "Our team went through some adversity early playing without her, but the other players stepped up and we really started to gel as a team in the second half."

In the first half, the Lady Trojans had difficulty hitting shots from the floor. Taylor was only able to hit 22 percent of its shots from the floor in the opening half as Grace took a 25-20 lead into the locker room.

In the second half, how-

ever, the Lady Trojans began to heat up. They were able to hit 44 percent of their shots from the field, seizing control of the game. The team outscored Goshen by 9 points in the second half.

The Lady Trojans' second half surge was led by junior Allison Easterhaus. She led the team with 21 points and contributed 10 rebounds, one block and one assist.

"Allison came on strong in the second half," Krause said. "She really put the team on her shoulders and helped us to start to click offensively. Her performance was key for us."

Along with Easterhaus' strong performance, junior Jenny Dawes contributed 13

points, including 8 of 9 free throw attempts. Sophomore Monica Graue hit two key 3-pointers and finished with 10 points.

The Lady Trojans were also aided by some strong play from off the bench. Freshmen Stacie Myers and Paige Rudolph delivered solid performances.

"Our freshmen came into the game in the second half and played very well for us," Krause said. "Both Stacie Myers and Paige Rudolph played key roles in the second half and played extremely well."

Myers continued her strong play Wednesday, when Taylor hosted Spring Arbor. The Taylor freshman

led her team with 18 points, including a personal 8-0 run to end the first half. The Trojans went into the locker room with a 46-31 lead. With 10:35 left in the second half, the hot-shooting Trojans had extended their lead to 22 points, 66-44.

Ball movement was a key factor, leading to 22 Trojan assists. Madden had 15 points, Dawes and Easterhaus both contributed 11, and Amber Bond had 10. The team shot 55 percent from the field, including 64 percent from beyond the arc.

The Lady Trojans' final game of the regular season is Saturday at 1 p.m. at #7 St. Francis.

Track & Field Anderson Invitational

Men - Lance Vanderberg ran an 8:38.06 in the 3,000 meter (automatic qualifying mark for the national meet). Teammate **Josh Edgerton** ran a 4:23.28 mile (his second provisional qualifying mark). Edgerton has already qualified in the 1,000 meter run. **Lamont Laing** and **Ian Brown** raced to a 1-2 finish in the 55 meters, with teammate **Ryan Gregory** just a few meters back in 5th place. Laing was timed at 6.58, Brown at 6.69 and Gregory crossed in 6.92. **Brown** came back later to place 2nd in the 200 meters with a time of 22.90. **Laing** finished 4th at 23.71 and **Brandon House** was 5th at 23.74. **Andy Long** and **Andy Marston** put together a 2-3 finish in the 400 meters for TU. Long was clocked at 50.72, while Marston had a 51.87. The 4 x 400 relay team of **Marston, Gregory, Edgerton, and Long** won the race in a time of 3:27.43. **Drew Cowan** grabbed second place in the shot put with a toss of 44'10".

Women - The Lady Trojans were paced by **Lolly York** as she easily won the mile run in a time of 5:12.85, fast enough to automatically qualify for the NAIA Indoor Championships in March. York has already qualified in the 3,000 and 5,000 meter events. **Carolyn Betteridge** placed 2nd in the mile with a time of 5:32.92. **Rebecca Clouse** turned in a quality performance by winning the 1,000 meter run at 3:17.65. In the 55 meter hurdles, **Kelsey Randall** finished 3rd with a time of 9.27, and **Vanessa Fereshetian** placed 7th at 9.83. **Kari Olson** ran to a 4th place finish in the 800 meters with a time of 2:28.54. The 4 x 400 relay team of **Fereshetian, Randall, Stacey Jackson, and Heather Haskins** finished 2nd at 4:19.80.

The Trojans host the NCAA Indoor Championships on Feb. 18, with field events beginning at 10 a.m. in the Kesler Center.



Photo by DJ Horton

#12 Trojans ready for final test Saturday

Taylor can claim conference championship with win over St. Francis, IWU loss

By ANDREW NEEL
STAFF WRITER

The Trojans (24-5, 12-3 Mid-Central College Conference) have won three consecutive games in dramatic fashion.

Taylor, ranked 12th in the latest NAIA Division II poll, defeated Goshen 49-47 on Saturday thanks to a last-second layup by Josh Merrick.

The Trojans followed that performance with a 63-59 win at Spring Arbor on Tuesday to clinch one of the top-two seeds in the MCC tournament.

Taylor is making a habit of playing games decided at the last second. The Trojans lost

on Feb. 4 in the final seconds against Indiana Wesleyan and defeated Grace in overtime on Feb. 7.

The Trojans' home game against Goshen College on Saturday was no exception. Taylor had the ball under its basket with 1.4 seconds remaining in a tie game. Kevin Wright found teammate Merrick wide open under the basket for a layup as the final buzzer sounded to give Taylor the 49-47 victory.

The Trojans lined up for the final play in a stack formation. The Maple Leafs were so focused on Taylor guard Eric Ford, who led the Trojans with 17 points, that Merrick slipped by them.

In a game where baskets

were hard to come by for both teams, the final minutes had the fans on the edge of their seats.

With the Trojans trailing by three, R.J. Beucler drove in the lane and almost turned the ball over, but he made an improbable save and passed to Merrick. Merrick, not known for his outside shooting, drained a 3-pointer to tie the game at 47-47 with 1:35 remaining.

"It wasn't my first 3-pointer of the season," Merrick said, "but it definitely doesn't happen very often."

With the game tied and under 10 seconds remaining, the Trojans gave the ball to Bell down low, but he was blocked by Goshen's Willie

Frazier. However, The ball was knocked out of bounds by Bell.

Goshen had the ball with 1.4 seconds remaining, but the Maple Leafs' inbound pass was too high and hit the rafters, giving the ball back to Taylor under its own basket and setting the stage for Merrick's game-winning layup.

Taylor head coach Paul Patterson was disappointed with his team's offensive effort, but pleased with the way his players responded defensively in the second half.

"Our offense was selfish, unsure and not competitive inside," Patterson said. "We played hard defensively, but

we need a dose of toughness before our next game."

Ford, Taylor's leading scorer, struggled offensively, but he did not let his poor shooting (6 of 19 from the field) get him down.

"I'm a firm believer that if I miss five shots in a row, I will hit the next five shots," Ford said.

Wright had a career game Tuesday against Spring Arbor as Taylor won 63-59. The junior guard hit three 3-pointers in the first half and finished with a career-high 17 points to lead the Trojans offensively. Ford scored 11 points, and freshman Jacob Bream made a solid contribution off the bench, adding 11 points as well. Beucler

scored 10 points and led the team with eight rebounds.

The Trojans are at home on Saturday for their regular-season finale against St. Francis at 3 p.m. If Taylor wins, it will push the team's MCC record to 13-3. This will create a tie with Huntington for the top spot in the MCC tournament.

Ironically, Taylor's seeding in the tournament is in the hands of arch-rival Indiana Wesleyan, which hosts Spring Arbor on Saturday.

If Taylor wins and Indiana Wesleyan loses, then the Trojans will become the #1 seed in the tournament, but if Taylor wins and the Wildcats win, then Huntington will be the #1 seed.